



CALPEEK

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HOUSE CHECK BOUNCING SCANDAL SPREADS ACROSS CA DELEGATION, BUT IMPACT IS STILL UNKNOWN.

Editor's note: In last week's CALPEEK we IDed 10 current and former CA House members who had OVERDRAFTS at the House's internal bank over a 39-month period. The total is now up to 20 current members and 3 former members. Here is CALPEEK's analysis...

...Several pollster have told CALPEEK that the BANK OVERDRAFT SCANDAL is a symbol of why CA voters hold congress in such low esteem. For those with large, regular overdrafts, it shows how arrogant and remote they were from those they represented, and this just reinforces the ANTI-INCUMBENT sentiment toward the "princes of pork and perqs."...

...Politically, this scandal was almost ready swamp the Demo leadership of the U.S. House, but the partisan nature was DEFUSED by the disclosure that 3 Bush cabinet members - DOD Sec. Dick Cheney(25), Labor Sec. Lynn Martin(16) and Ag Sec. Ed Madigan(49) - all had overdrafts when they were members of the House...

...Damage & Spin Control. Some House members think the news media is overblowing this scandal, but CALPEEK sources don't buy that. But given the SLOPPY manner in which this "thing called a bank" was run, some CALPEEK sources suggest that members with no more than 5-6 bad checks might escape permanent damage or defeat, depending on how they handle it. There is a GRAY area for those with 6-12 overdrafts. But for those members who have over 12 this could be fatal, especially in new, competitive districts...

...Who has been hit hardest? There's no doubt that U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer(D-Greenbrae) has been the one CA lawmaker who has been HURT MOST. Her U.S. Senate campaign

was running full steam until this scandal broke and it is now in jeopardy because of her 87 overdrafts. In the opinion of many CALPEEK sources, Boxer is no longer electable. Perhaps the congresswoman's quote in an L.A. Times story says it best: "I have myself to blame." Yes, she is trying to spin her way out, but most think it will be difficult, if not impossible...

...The other U.S. Senate candidate impacted by this scandal is conservative U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer, who had 27 overdrafts. Up until this point in his career, he's been one of the more sanctimonious types in congress and has really given his GOP rival, appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour, all kinds of grief and aggravation on a number of hot issues. But as one CALPEEK source said, "Seymour now has an issue he can ram up Dannemeyer's nose. I'd never ease up on it if I were him." The key difference between Dannemeyer and Boxer (other than the number of overdrafts) is that most insiders felt Boxer had a fair shot at winning the June primary, whereas few insiders gave Dannemeyer that same chance. U.S. Reps. Mel Levine(D) and Tom Campbell(R), both running for the 6-year seat (like Boxer), claim no overdrafts...

...As for other congressmen who could be in trouble, U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter(R-San Diego) had 407 overdrafts. He tops the CA list for now. Former Congressman Jim Bates of San Diego had 89 bad checks and this disclosure should finish off his comeback attempt in the Demo primary for the 50th C.D. this June...

...U.S. Rep. Bob Matsui(D-Sacto), with 21 overdrafts, doesn't have a strong GOP challenger, which is lucky for him. Isn't Matsui the DNC Treasurer? YES. And it's

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a good thing former Congressman Doug Bosco (D), with 124 bad checks, didn't try for a comeback in the 1st C.D. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '92: HISPANIC DEMOCRATS BATTLE.

Editor's note: There are six (6) hot races in this year's primary in L.A. County that may determine which group of HISPANIC Demos has the most clout for the remainder of the 1990s. Five of the six primaries are for seats in the CA Assembly, while the remaining battle is for the 30th C.D., which CALPEEK has covered in prior issues. Here is our report on the assembly races...

...Most political contests on the Eastside of L.A. County involve two rival groups. One group is led by L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina and includes Assemblywoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, U.S. Reps. Ed Roybal and Esteban Torres, Assemblyman Xavier Becerra and L.A. Councilman Mike Hernandez. CALPEEK referred to this group a few weeks ago as the "Molinanistas" and it seems to have caught on. This group usually has consultant Pat Bond as their political guru. She has been very successful for them and her presence adds mucho credibility...

...The other group includes State Sen. Art Torres, L.A. Councilman Richard Alatorre and Assemblyman Richard Polanco. Allied to this group is State Sen. Charles Calderon. U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez is an ally, but is usually IDed with the Waxman-Berman group. Overall, the group is sometimes called "The Golden Palominos." In recent clashes with the Molinanistas, the Palominos have come in second best. FYI: the ADs in this report are solid Demo turf...

- 46th A.D. - Classic match-up. Berta Saavedra, Assemblywoman Roybal-Allard's top AA, is running to replace her. The group's all here, with Bond running the campaign for this well-known community activist. Her key opponent is well-known in the downtown legal community -- West Point/Harvard law school educated Louis Caldera, on leave as a deputy county counsel. He is being supported by most of the Palominos and has hired consultant Richie Ross. He's an expert in public financing and is a fresh face in politics. Saavedra probably has an advantage in name ID, but money may be problem. Rate this a toss up for now...

- 49th A.D. - This was billed as a 1992 repeat between Assemblyman Xavier Becerra and Garvey School Board member Diane Martinez, daughter of the congressman. But Becerra jumped to the 30th C.D. when Ed Roybal retired. With Xavier's departure, the Molinanistas (less Hernandez) have consolidated behind attorney Richard Fajardo, legal counsel for MALDEF. Martinez has hired consultant Richie Ross and both Polanco and Calderon are backing Diane's 2nd bid for the assembly. Attorney Richard Amador is also a strong contender. Robert Gomez is yet another primary contender. Slight edge to Martinez. Sources say Fajardo is a good guy, but should be a judge, not a State legislator...

- 50th A.D. - Pat Acosta is the field deputy to retiring State Sen. Cecil Green. She's one of two leading contenders in this field. Yes, she has backing of the Molina group (+ Green). Her key opponent is attorney Martha Escutia, a VP with L.A. United Way. At this point, it's not clear whether Escutia has backing from the Palominos. Another contender in this field is former L.A. council deputy Rick Ruiz, who used to work for Ruth Galanter. Toss up, so far...

- 57th A.D. - This is NOT a classic Molina et al vs. Palominos struggle. Popular Assemblywoman Sally Tanner(D) is retiring and she's supporting her AA Edward Chavez. Chavez is backed by Calderon and Polanco, plus Assemblymembers Jerry Eaves and Bob Epple and U.S. Rep. Martinez. Consultant Larry Levine is in charge. The key rival is community college trustee Hilda Solis, who has the Molina-Roybal team behind her candidacy. Both Solis and Chavez are PRO-choice, which is a departure from Tanner, who is a PRO-life Demo. Solis' consultants are Skelton-Grover & Assoc. What makes this race interesting is a 3rd candidate, Tony Fellows, a college prof and an environmentalist who has ties to BOTH Tanner and Molina. Sources say Fellow is a good guy in the wrong district. Slight edge to Chavez, because this is an AD that Molina did NOT carry when she ran for supervisor and Tanner still has CLOUT...

- 58th A.D. - This contest has not yet turned into your classic battle, but may any day. There are five solid candidates in this race: Norwalk Councilwoman Grace Napolitano, So. El Monte Councilman Raul

Pardo, community college trustee Rick Sanchez, attorney Armando Duron and attorney Albert Perez Jr., son of a So. El Monte councilman. Loyalties are split all over the place, but if you're looking for a clue, then perhaps Duron will end up with Molina's support because Pat Bond is running his campaign. Duron is a very savvy guy and was Molina's appointee to the L.A. County Reapportionment Commission. This primary is a toss up. Stay tuned...

L.A. COUNTY DA RACE MAY FINALLY GET GOING.

With about a 9 week run until the June 2nd primary, activity in the race to oust incumbent L.A. Co. DA Ira Reiner is finally moving off the dime. Beverly Hills Councilman Bob Tanenbaum unveiled two(2) 30-second TV spots this past week, the first TV ads in this race. The ads will air beginning Mar. 23...

...The spots were produced by consultant Sid Galanty. Consultant Harvey Englander says the media buy will be "strategic," meaning not huge in terms of money, but rather one that is aimed at high propensity voters and opinion molders. The buy will be a combo of regular & cable TV. The voice over on the ads is actor Ed Asner...

...One spot is called "credentials," while the second ad is titled "too long." The credentials ads introduces Tanenbaum, while the "too long" ad takes a tough shot at Reiner and two of his deputies, Sterling Norris and Gil Garcetti, both of whom are also running. Both ads end with the same tag line: "enough is enough." Yes, there is the familiar jail set, but it's used very effectively. FYI: Tanenbaum has another major fundrasier set for April 2nd...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: MORE MEASURES SEEK TO QUALIFY FOR THE NOVEMBER 1992 BALLOT..

Editor's note: Here is an update on 1992 initiative proposals which have been given the OK to collect signatures. In order to make the November 1992 ballot, petitions have to be returned by April 17 to allow enough time to verify signatures...

- In addition to two(2) educational bond measures on the June 2nd ballot (Prop. 152 and 153), there also will be a CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, Prop. 154. This measure was passed in the late hours of the 1990 legis-

lative session and deals with postponing the payment of property tax hikes for certain low-income homeowners who purchase as their principal place of residence the home in which they live...

- "EDUCATION" is the official title of a constitutional amendment by GOP Assemblyman Nolan Frizzelle of Fountain Valley that would require State school funding be apportioned by county offices of education based upon the number of enrolled students, rather than the current "average daily attendance" (ADA) formula. July 27 is the deadline for submitting signatures...

- "TERM LIMITS FOR CITY, COUNTY, AND PUBLIC DISTRICT" is the official title of yet another term limit initiative. The sponsor is Tim Patterson of Pt. Richmond (510)234-3267. If approved, it would limit local elected officials to two(2) terms in office or 12 consecutive years. The measure does NOT apply to judges. Patterson has until Aug. 3 to get 615,958 signatures for this constitutional amendment...

- "BASIC HEALTH CARE COVERAGE" is the official title of CMA's initiative to provide insurance coverage to those workers who don't have any protection. The proponent is Carol Lee of the CMA (415)541-0900. The CMA has until Aug. 10 to get 384,974 signatures. Stay tuned...

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT TOPIC FOR GROUP.

"Demystifying the Community Redevelopment Agency" is the topic for the April 8 meeting of the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, with guest speaker Ed Avila, admin. for the L.A. Community Redev. Agency. Reception 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m., Beverly Plaza Hotel, L.A. For info & RSVPs, contact Emma Schafer (310)445-8862...

DR. COYE GUESTS AT WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Dr. Molly Joel Coye, director of the CA Dept. of Health Services, will be the guest speaker of Women In Public Affairs, Apr. 2, The Tower Restaurant in L.A. Reception at 11:30 a.m., luncheon 12 noon. Dr. Coye will discuss current legislation dealing with healthcare and AIDS. For info contact Anne Louise Rice at Cerrell Associates (213)466-3445...

1992 U.S. SENATE UPDATE: HERSCHENSOHN AND CAMPBELL BATTLE FOR CALIF. GOP FARM VOTE.. The old saying in politics that goes, "One man's smear is another man's fact sheet," is becoming political reality in the battle between conservative Bruce Herschensohn and moderate U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell. Both are locked in an increasingly nasty fight to win the GOP nomination for the open, 6-yr. U.S. Senate seat of Demo Alan Cranston...

...The most recent round of fighting is over the important GOP farm/rancher vote -- and LARGE grower campaign contributions. BH and his campaign consultant Ken Khachigian are seeing RED over 2 letters and a campaign "fact sheet" sent to key Republican ag/rancher types by Campbell supporter John Harris (big cattle rancher). Khachigian, in an 8-page letter to Harris and CCed to every GOP elected leader in CA, says the letters and fact sheet distorts Herschensohn's record. There's NO doubt the Harris mailer was effective, otherwise KK wouldn't be so furious. But it's the side-by-side comparison on issues (in the form of a fact sheet) that really steams KK...

...While CALPEEK couldn't check the entire Campbell fact sheet (that was faxed to us by the BH campaign), one thing did stick out. In the fact sheet under BIG GREEN (Prop. 128 in 1990), it says BH opposed, while for Campbell it says, "Opposed. Spoke out in Town Meetings against Big Green."...

...That didn't sound right, so CALPEEK contacted ex Big Green cmp. mgr. Bob Mulholland, who said Campbell was NEUTRAL and did not take a position. Ditto with the NO on 128 campaign. Woodward & McDowell, who ran the NO campaign, told CALPEEK that if Campbell was opposed, he never contacted their anti-BIG GREEN campaign. And a Sierra Club member who was part of the interview endorsement panel in 1990, seemed rather surprised about Campbell's stand against 128. And this Sierra Club member claims to have gone to several Campbell Town Hall meetings and NEVER heard him talk about Big Green...

...And finally, there is Campbell's Demo opponent from 1990, Robert Palmer, who in two campaign mailers blasted Campbell for refusing to take a position on Prop. 128. "He remained uncommitted," Palmer told CALPEEK...

...Despite what CALPEEK has found, the Campbell campaign says he DID speak out against Big Green at these town hall meetings. CALPEEK asked the campaign to produce a newspaper clip that can be checked, which documents Campbell's stated opposition to 128. Nothing so far. Campbell sources say the lawmaker was opposed to the pesticide provisions in 128, but that's not the same thing as being opposed to the entire ballot measure. Like we said, "One man's smear is another man's fact sheet." Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Ex-Assembly GOP staffer Jim Nygren and his wife Trudy have opened Nygren & Co., 7620 San Nita Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 (916)863-1573. The firm will specialize in PR and campaign management...

- Larry Tenney joins Nelson & Lucas Communications in Sacto as a VP. Tenney had been working for U.S. Sen. John Seymour...

- Consultant Rose King is hired to handle mail and strategy for 1st C.D. Demo candidate Dan Hamburg...

- Consultant George Gorton has FINALLY moved his office from San Diego to Sonoma. New address 583 West 1st St., Sonoma, CA 95476 (707)939-8761. Another company owned by Gorton, Direct Communications, will remain HQed in San Diego...

- Frank Schubert and Joy Howell have joined Goddard Claussen/First Tuesday Team in Sacto as Sr. VPs. Schubert was president of the Assn. for CA Tort Reform, while Howell owned her own PA firm in D.C...

- San Jose campaign consultants Roger Lee & Carol Beddo are named to run Demo Lynn Schenk's primary in the 49th C.D...

- Carolyn J. Veal has joined Cordoba Corp. as general counsel and regional mgr. of the firm's Sacto office at 1201 "K" St., Ste. 1840, Sacto 95814. (916)325-0700...

- Ken Luce has been promoted to director of operations at Competitive Edge Research & Communications in San Diego. CERC has also hired Kristine Sims and Fred Winton as public research assistants...